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VOL. V, No. 7

JULY, 1966



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specialist in classical numismatics

JOEL L. MALTER

The Voice of the Turtle

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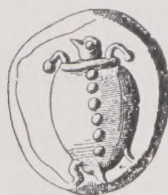
A PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB
OF AMERICA

VOL. V. No. 7

JULY, 1966

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From the Editor's Desk



The systematic study of ancient history began with the Renaissance. As a discipline, until the late nineteenth century, ancient history was a study in the literary sources of antiquity. These had to be correlated with one another. They also had to be understood in terms of what the author was really saying, giving rise to that special study we know as philology. The scholarly tradition for students of antiquity was to acquire a deep and intimate relationship with the ancient authors. To a large extent this tradition remains with us yet.

Archaeology as a separate discipline is barely a hundred years old. Its early practitioners, while they made thrilling, often sensational discoveries, had much to learn before their own work could properly be termed a science. It was not until the turn of the present century that archaeologists achieved this stage in their development.

The use made by historians of early archaeological evidence was to harmonize it with the literary sources. Without precise methods of dating and lacking a systematic procedure to analyze sites in any exhaustive way such evidence could be handled in no other way. It has only been in recent decades where the methodology has become more precise that archaeological evidence can stand alone on its own merits and can, in fact, dispute the ancient authors.

It seems foolish, upon reflection, to regard Herodotus or Tacitus or any other author as infallible, yet this is just what has been done for centuries. Despite the internal evidence of our documents that the authors were biased, credulous and often mislead, we have nevertheless based all our knowledge of classical antiquity upon their writings.

Archaeology now presents us with three major categories of primary evidence upon which all subsequent study of ancient history must proceed. These groups are the coins, the inscriptions and the papyri. (We are thinking here solely in terms of the classical period and not overlooking the cuneiform tablets which provide evidence for our period only in certain areas of the Seleucid empire).

On May the 29th, 1453, the Ottoman Turk, Muhammed II entered New Rome and brought to a final end any physical dominions that could properly be called the Roman Empire. Before this date, with roots running back into the mists of

pre-recorded history of Greece and Italy, there was in our world a Graeco-Roman civilization which endured, not for centuries but for millenia. Any civilization which could so endure could not be as shallow as represented to us by the historians who recorded for us. The future of historical research is to recover the depth and complexity of antiquity. To do so, use must be made of what are now our primary source documents, the coins, the inscriptions and the papyri.

The numismatist today works with more than a curious artifact, he deals with the very source of our knowledge of the past. — JOHN E. HARTMAN, *editor*

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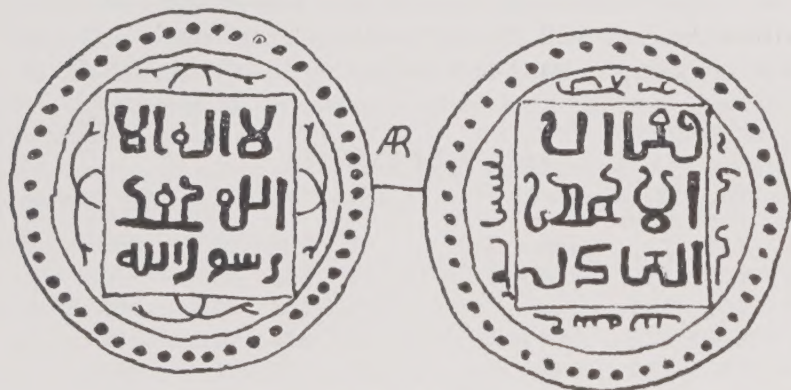
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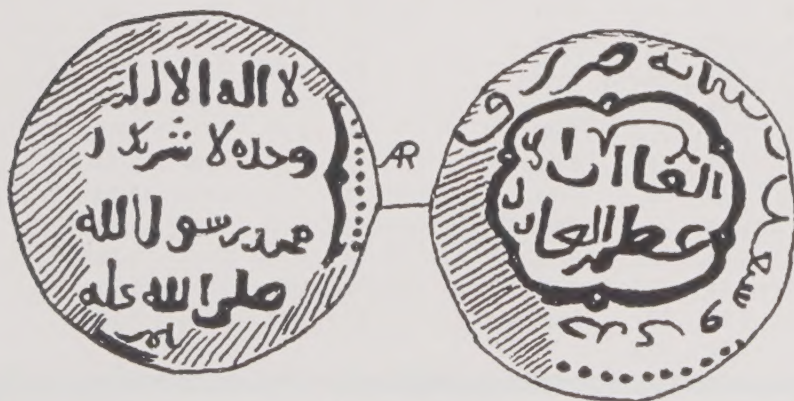
AN ILKHANID HOARD FROM NISHAPUR

by RAYMOND J. HEBERT

In 1964, the author purchased a lot of thirty-seven silver coins from an antique dealer in Teheran, Iran, which seemed to constitute a hoard. Their provenance was said to have been Khurasan in eastern Iran. Nothing is known of the circumstances of the find.



Nos. 1 - 35



Nos. 36 - 37

Although the coins show little sign of wear and still retain their original lustre, all are either weakly struck or off center, in addition to which most show traces of oxidation, so that only one specimen contains both mint and date in readable form. However, since of the lot, thirty-five were struck from the same set of dies, it is possible to reconstruct one complete coin which indicates that all were struck at Nishapur, a city in north-eastern Iran. They were issued in 666 A.H. (=1267/8 A.D.), by Qa an al- 'Azam al- 'Adil, i.e., the Ilkhanid ruler Abaq Khan who ruled from 663-680 A.H. (= 1265-

1281 A.D.), while the other two coins, also from one set of dies, were struck in 671 A.H. (= 1272/3 A.D., the mint being illegible.

Judging from the diameters and weights, at least two denominations seem to be represented, nos. 1-32 weighing from 2.02-2.71 grm. with a mean weight of 2.46 grm., and having a diameter of 21-26 mm., with a mean diameter of 22.7 mm., the mode being 22.5 mm; nos. 33-35 weighing from 1.12-1.23 grm., with a mean weight of 1.19 grm., and having a diameter of 17.17.5 mm., with a mean diameter of 17 mm.; and nos. 36-37 weighing from 2.62-2.89 grm., with a mean weight of 2.75 grm., and having a mean diameter of 21 mm.

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No.	Wt.	Diam.	Axis Direction	No.	Wt.	Diam.	Axis Direction
1	2.59	23	3:00 o'clock	20	2.68	22.5	10:30 o'clock
2	2.58	23	3:00 "	21	2.62	24	11:00 "
3	2.55	21.5	3:00 "	22	2.02	22.5	11:00 "
4	2.48	22	3:00 "	23	2.68	21.5	12:00 "
5	2.44	22.5	3:00 "	24	2.52	26	12:00 "
6	2.44	23	3:00 "	25	2.55	22.5	12:30 "
7	2.64	23.5	3:30 "	26	2.65	23.5	1:00 "
8	2.26	25	3:30 "	27	2.53	23	1:00 "
9	2.59	21.5	4:30 "	28	2.68	24	1:30 "
10	2.57	22.5	4:30 "	29	2.57	21	1:30 "
11	2.62	22	6:00 "	30	2.71	23.5	2:00 "
12	2.63	22.5	7:00 "	31	2.59	23	2:00 "
13	2.51	21	7:00 "	32	2.55	23.5	2:30 "
14	2.50	23	7:30 "	33	1.23	17	3:00 "
15	2.44	22	7:30 "	34	1.12	17.5	3:00 "
16	2.65	22	8:30 "	35	1.23	17	6:00 "
17	2.61	22.5	8:30 "	36	2.62	21	10:30 "
18	2.50	22	brockage	37	2.89	21	7:30 "
19	2.51	22.5	9:30 "				

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COIN TOPICS

Edited by JULIAN CARR

At its inception, this feature was intended primarily to discuss interesting coin types, giving the historical, artistic and mythological background of some of the more unusual coins. Its purpose was to infuse a little more of the romance of antiquity into the essentially dead piece of metal which is all that coin really is.

It was hoped that readers would become the major support of this part of the *Turtle*, thus permitting short but well researched papers by amateurs to reach all our members. Such support, while there has been much, has been disappointing. Many more of our members are capable of providing material for this space.

The growth of the club has provided a number of new collectors who encounter difficulty in finding adequate information on coin types and several of these have requested that some months of *Coin Topics* be devoted to a discussion of this subject. Consequently this is what will be done, and members, particularly older and more experienced people, are again urged to contribute. JULIAN CARR

Preliminary to a discussion of types, I have, at the request of Mr. Carr, prepared a brief discussion of technical terms referring to coins. It is well to review these terms periodically so that all are agreed on what they mean when they are casually used in numismatic discussion.

The blank piece of metal upon which the coin is stamped is usually referred to as the FLAN. Modern coinages more often use the term PLANCHET which can be considered synonymous with flan. The term flan, however, is most often encountered in reference to ancient coins while planchet is not.

The terms, OBTVERSE and REVERSE refer to the two sides of the coin. It is not always possible to identify the obverse with certainty, but in the preponderant number of ancient coins the obverse is the "head" side of the coin, that is the side bearing the head of the God or Goddess, emperor, or distinctive device of the issuing authority. Technically, the obverse is the anvil die side of the coin on all ancient coins.

Stamped upon the surface of the coin we find the TYPE. This is the major device or badge or portrait. Occasionally we find a smaller subsidiary type or types along with the major type. These subsidiary devices are known as SYMBOLS. The Franklin half dollar provides an easily seen example. The reverse of that coin has a bell as its major device, hence the

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bell is the type. To the right is a small eagle. This is a symbol.

Many coins also bear inscriptions. The proper term for lettering on a coin is LEGEND. The development of numismatic epigraphy as a special field is bringing the term INSCRIPTION into more frequent use in the literature as a synonym for legend.

All lettering on a coin is considered part of the legend. Many coins however have major and minor legends, but to date these are not separated by the use of distinctive defining terms. A monogram, often found on Greek coins, is usually considered a symbol.

That part of the coin which is not occupied by the TYPE, the LEGEND or a SYMBOL and which is blank is referred to as the FIELD.

Special technical terms often encountered are: ANEPIGRAPHIC, which refer to the absence of the legend and EXERGUE, which refers to that portion of the field at the base of the type which may be occupied by a special portion of the legend, often a date.

Let us now look at an ancient coin and relate these terms to the coin itself.



The coin shown is the familiar Athenian Owl. The Owl is the TYPE. To the left is the SYMBOL, the three olive leaves. To the right is the legend, (ΑΘΕ), the city ethnic of Athens. That portion of the coin at the owl's feet is the exergue. There is nothing in the exergue to warrant description. This is the reverse side of the coin.



The coin shown here is one of Augustus. The TYPE is his portrait. The coin is ANEPIGRAPHIC and bears no legend. HOWARD OLSON

In Mr. Reinfield's interesting and excellent presentation *World's Most Popular Coins*, a parenthetical note under Charles II (1660-1685) states that milled coinage began in 1660.

The Max Mehl catalog of 1940 carries the statement that
(Continued next page)

ROMAN IMPERIAL COINAGE OF GAUL

Silver unless metal indicated by abbreviations: B for Billon and AE for Bronze.

1. **Octavian (Augustus) and Mark Antony.** Denarius struck 39 B.C. in Lugdunum. Bearded head of Octavian r. Rv. Wings caduceus. Coh. 6; Syd. 1327a, **Rarity 4.** Extremely Fine.....\$75.00
2. **Augustus, 27 B.C. - 14 A.D.** Denarius struck 2 B.C. at Lugdunum. Laureate head r. Rv. Gaius and Lucius standing, holding spears and shields. Coh. 43. Choice Very Fine. 30.00
3. Denarius, similar type, but reverse of rather poor style. Very Fine. 25.00
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6. AE As. Lugdunum. Laureate head r., globe as above. Rv. Securitas seated r. Coh. 324; R.I.C. 286 Very Fine, dark green.. 50.00
7. **Galba, 68-69.** AE Dupondius, Lugdunum. Posthumous striking. Laureate head r. Rv. Libertas standing l. Coh. 169; R.I.C. 147. Very Fine/Fine. 30.00
8. **Hadrian, 117-138.** Denarius. Head r. Rv. RESTITVTORI GALLIAE; Emperor raising kneeling Gallia. Coh. 1247; R.I.C. 324. **Rare.** Very Fine. 30.00
9. **Valerian I, 253-260.** Antoninianus. Lugdunum. Rv. DEO VOLKANO; Vulcan standing within temple, holding hammer and pincers. Coh. 2 as Valerian II. R.I.C. 5. **Rare.** Very Fine 15.00
10. **Gallienus, 253-268.** B Antoninianus. Rv. DEO MARTI; Mars in temple. Coh. 149. Very Fine. 5.00
11. B Antoninianus. Rv. GERMANICVS MAX V; Trophy between captives. Coh. 308; R.I.C. 18. Very Fine. 5.00
12. **Postumus, 259-268.** B Antoninianus. Mediolanum mint. Rv. CONCORDIA EQVIT; Concordia standing. R.I.C. 371; Coh. 18. Choice Very Fine 5.00
13. B Antoninianus. **Cologne** mint. IOVI STARORI. Coh. 159; R.I.C. 309. Very Fine 4.50
14. Similar. **Cologne.** IOVI VICTORI. Coh. 163; R.I.C. 311. Extra Fine. 5.50
15. Similar. **Cologne.** MONETA AVG. Coh. 199; R.I.C. 315. Choice E.F. 5.00



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milled shillings and sixpence of Elizabeth are noted by the five point star at the end of the legend. An examination of Elizabethan shillings reveals that milled coins were produced in 1564.

The milled shillings were cut on a rack and screw, hand turned mill. Apparently few of these coins were made since there are hammered coins produced at the same time and later. It does not have to be concluded that milling was impractical in its initial stages since the reasures brought into England by the freebooters enabled the government to suspend taxes for fifteen years. Coinage needs may also have declined.

By the middle of the seventeenth century, milling had largely replaced hammering as a means of striking coins. It was not, however, until nearly the end of the eighteenth century when the steam powered engine was applied to a die press that modern coinage as such merged.

The early shillings of Elizabeth have their place in numismatic history as the first dated and milled coins.—WALTER AMES



Mr. Frank O'Sullivan has submitted a coin in his collection which is heretofore unpublished and which presents some interesting features for numismatic speculation.

The coin is one of Aurelian struck at Cremna in Pisidia. Cremna, (Colonia Iulia Augusta Felix Cremna) was founded in 6 BC (according to a milestone found in the vicinity) by Augustus. It was one of several Roman colonies founded in central Pisidia. Apparently such a foundation in that region served a twofold purpose. It did indeed provide lands for discharged veterans, but it also provided a town inhabited by

skilled legionaires who could act as a local militia against the wild hill tribes of the region.

Like most of the Roman colonial settlements in the East, the issues of coins were sporadic. Coins are recorded for Marcus Aurelius, the Severi, Gordian III, Herrenius Etruscus, Gallus and Aurelian. The only large issues of coins are for the Severi and for Aurelian.

The obverse presents no problems. It is similar to the recorded coins of Aurelian both in portrait and inscription. The portrait is of the laureated bust facing right with the legend, IMP C S L DOM AURELIANO.



The reverse provides much more for consideration. The legend reads COL CREMNE. The three letters immediately preceding COL appear to be AIO or ATO. There is no clue as to what is meant. There are four major reverse legends for the Aurelian issues thus far recorded. These are: Fortuna, Donatio, Apollini and those bearing the city name without describing or alluding to the types. The coin is a fifth category, of course. Apollo is referred to on earlier issues of the city and so is not extraordinary.

Donatio and Fortuna imply that something must have happened in the colony, perhaps some disaster, and the personal intervention of the emperor is clearly indicated, both by the content of the legends and also the large issue of coins. One issue has a type of Asklepios and Hygieia. Does this allude to the plague?

The type on our present specimen is not unique but it certainly raises questions. Its use before was on a coin of Caracalla recorded in the *BMC* (Lycia, Pamphilia and Pisidia.

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#7 under Cremna and illustrated in plate XXXV, #5) and the type is described as Julia Domna carrying the two infants, Caracalla and Geta on her shoulders with two figures at her feet being representations of Eros.

One of two conclusions is possible. It is quite likely that the attribution of the type made by G. F. Hill is in error and the reference is not to Julia and her sons at all, but rather represents a type not yet identified but specific to the colony of Cremna. A second possibility is that the type was selected at random from previous coins of the city. Why this should occur on a group of coins so obviously issued for a special commemorative purpose is difficult to explain.

Here again, a new specimen serves to draw attention to the mass of issues emanating from the Eastern empire. This coin in particular ought to have much to tell us, yet it remains much of an enigma. It does serve to focus our thoughts on how little is known of the Roman colonial foundations, some of which are known to us only from their coins.—H. MAITLAND

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A SURVEY: PART I

by H. MAITLAND

The scope of the coins of the Roman Republic is almost too vast consider in a single long article. This work is limited therefore almost entirely to a discussion of those which were minted during the period 269 BC to 69 BC, a period of two hundred years. Beginning with Sulla, the coins begin to undergo various transformations to which we will barely allude and which are a part and parcel of the whole turmoil of the 1st century BC. These coins are referred to as "Imperial" coins, although it is admitted here that this classification admits more coins than numismatists have permitted in the past.

The "Imperial" coins are those struck by such men as Sulla, Caesar, Pompey, Anthony and others and whose official sanction probably depends upon the extraordinary powers these men held, whether granted or assumed. While these men struck the familiar denarii, they also experimented with other metals, notably gold (as did Caesar and Sulla) and bronze. Thus there exists a fascinating series of coins, not yet fully categorized or studied in their historical perspective, which circulated side by side with the now dwindling issues of the Republic. These coins must be the subject of another study.

This article will also allude briefly to various threads of the Republican Coinages which are carried over into the Imperial system when it was established by Augustus. This topic too, ought to be the subject of another article which seeks to relate the continuity of Roman coins.

Rome began with a bi-metallic system in bronze and silver. Silver gradually became the dominant metal while bronze gradually became token in nature. Bronze itself disappears with the end of the Social War (88 BC), and except where it is the subject of brief experimental coinages by Caesar, it is not restored until the beginning of the Principate. Gold was struck only as an emergency coinage and can not be considered as a regular coinage metal until the establishment of the empire.

Inflation, or rather debasement of the coins took place by weight reduction in bronze. (This has led some scholars to question whether the system ever was truly bi-metallic). Silver was struck with relative purity and weight constancy throughout our period except during times of extreme scarcity

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when copper coins were plated with silver. (A parenthetical note ought to be made that for a long time these coins were held to be contemporary forgeries. It is now believed that the Roman Government struck them and that they are official issues.)

Bronze was probably the first metal to be used as currency by the Romans. Big chunks of the metal, referred to as AES RUDE, have been discovered in votive fountains and two early hoards to lend credence to their use as a sort of proto-currency. If such was the case, they are impossible to date; the surviving pieces demonstrate no uniformity of weight and the length of time they were used is not possible to compute.

There are two early laws, the LEX ATERNIA TARPEIA and the LEX JULIA PAPIRIA, traditionally dated to the time of the twelve tables (454- and 430 BC) which fix fines in oxen and sheep and fix the commutation of these fines in metal, respectively. The dating of these laws is by no means fixed and while they do fix commutations in metal, there is no reason to suppose that they allude in any way to coins.

Grueber (author of the three volume series of the *Coins of the Roman Republic in the British Museum*) and his predecessors hypothesized that the AES RUDE gradually became standardized into lumps of uniform weight as the Romans approached the period of coinage, and finally the idea of the distinctive device occurred which then moved the Romans into the category of coiners.

The evidence now militates against such a theory. While it is certain that metal had value, and was no doubt used as currency, there is no reason to get romantic about lumps of bronze. These are simply metal and as such, treasure to their owners. No pieces of metal have been found which can be demonstrated to be money in the transition stage between AES RUDE and coins. When Rome began to coin, she did so with a fully developed system.

This should come as no surprise. After all, the Greek cities of Italy had a long established coinage system from which Rome could draw all the examples she needed. It is futile to discuss the independent growth of the "Roman" system of coining, which when it comes into being is already fully developed and is based on the coin systems of the Greek cities.

What has to be surmised, despite Livy and other patriotic authors, is that, as an economic center, Rome was too unimportant either to need or use coins until the third century BC. When Rome does begin to coin, her system is essentially

a "Greek" one, and only as Roman influence in Italy expands can a distinctive "Roman" system be detected.

Here must be mentioned the AES SIGNATUM. These are quadrilateral or oblong bricks of bronze with representations of animals, such as the pig, bull, sheep, etc., birds, objects, such as trident, shield, anchor, etc. The weight appears to be uniform (four or five Roman pounds). They have no inscriptions or other identifying marks of authority or value.

At first, these were believed to be part of the transitional coinages, that is, from AES RUDE, to uniform blocks of metal, to AES SIGNATUM, and finally to coins. Hoard evidence now indicates that AES SIGNATUM is contemporary with the earliest coins, and precedes coinage by only a short period. Their place in the monetary system has never been demonstrated. They are not transitional pieces, but since they did have value they may have served a currency function. This is one of the many areas of Roman numismatics which needs further study.

(to be continued)

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BOOK REVIEWS

Williams, Roderick T., *THE CONFEDERATE COINAGE OF THE ARCADIAN IN THE FIFTH CENTURY B.C.*, *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* 155, American Numismatic Society, New York, 1966.

This monograph treats of the coinage of three cities in Arcadia in the Peloponnese issued during the fifth century BC. The author discusses the history of the area, the chronology of the period and relates his numismatic findings to the inscriptions and the literary sources.

Altogether the monograph is highly technical and will be of interest to only a few specialists. The Arcadian coinage has to be outside the mainstream of historical coinages, nevertheless it must be investigated by any perceptive student of Greek Coins.

There are some who will not wish to accept the chronology established by Mr. Williams since it is based on the circular type argument, of the "if we accept this, then that" variety. Questions can also be raised if his interpretations of the coins in relation to Herodotus are valid. Nevertheless his contribution is large.

A very great question is raised by the die linkages. Any person familiar with this special technical phase of numismatics will find some baffling questions here. It almost would appear from the die links as reported by the author that the Arcadian coiners used a "bin" system of dies rather than an orderly progression. This monograph should raise some interesting points in future die link studies and will have reverberations long felt.

Of particular value to prospective students of special fields is the methodology employed by the author. He has exhaustively gathered all the material available on the subject he has chosen, and has recorded as close to every known coin of the Arcadian league as possible. His bibliography is an education in itself.

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The Agora and the Forum

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TO THE EDITOR: A. J. Anderson states that the literary sources make it appear evident that a cavalryman was paid more than a foot-soldier. He also quotes Polybius regarding pay in the second century BC. That same passage in Polybius states that while a foot-soldier received two obols per day, a cavalryman received a drachma or three times as much. I have no idea what the ratio might have been in Augustan times, but thought this passage worth bringing to the attention of all readers. It also contains the information that a Centurion received twice the foot-soldier's pay. There is also some information regarding grain rations.

DONALD GIBSON

TO THE EDITOR: Elaine Stanley asks in a letter in the *Agora and the Forum* how one would relate the use by St. Luke of the term "mina" where Matthew uses "Talent" to Fr. McKenzie's thesis. While the answer is perhaps a little away from numismatics, I feel that this is a possible explanation.

Jesus, in using parables, drew from everyday life to illustrate spiritual points. I believe that Fr. McKenzie brought this out. The importance, therefore, is not whether it was a mina or a talent or a shekel or a coin, but rather that a wealthy man distributed that wealth among his servants and later demanded an accounting of the stewardship. I am sure that the use of talent or mina is purely illustrative.

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However, it is now invisible and presumably covered by centuries of silt. A rubidium-magnetometer has been tested elsewhere and will be employed in this search to map the city from the surface.

This archaeological expedition should be of especial interest to numismatists because the only known artifact from this once important city is a coin. And only one specimen of that coin is known! This coin and the ancient literary sources are today the only clues to the existence of Helike and it will be interesting to see if more specimens will be garnered from 45 to 60 feet beneath the water.

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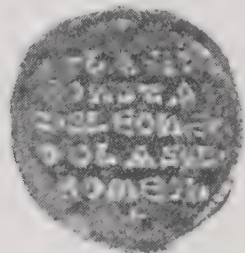
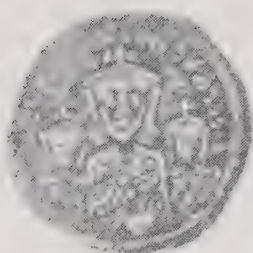
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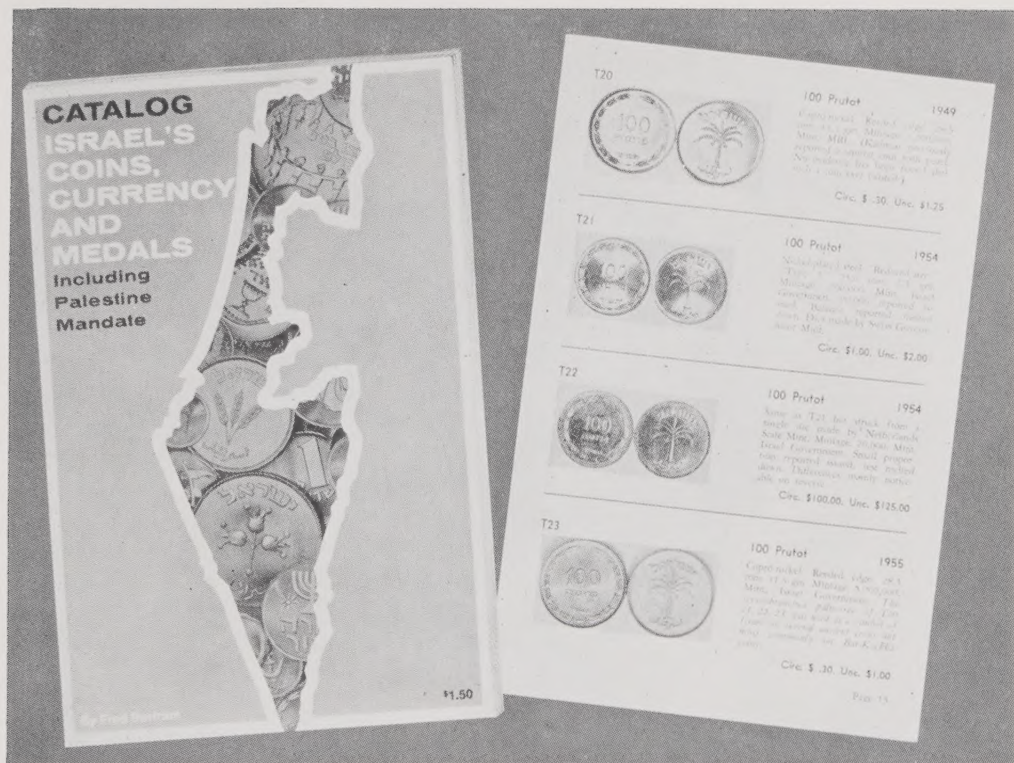
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